

Name: **Twin Ridges WY-030-26N89W11-2012**

**FORM 1**

**Documentation of BLM Wilderness Inventory Findings on Record**

**1. Is there existing BLM wilderness inventory information on all or part of this area?**

No ☐ X ☒ Yes ☐ (if yes, and if more than one area is within the area, list the names of those areas):

**a) Inventory Source:** ☐ N/A ☐

**c) Map Name(s)/Number(s):** N/A

**d) BLM District (s)/Field Office(s):** N/A

**2. BLM Inventory Finds on Record:** N/A

Existing inventory information regarding wilderness characteristics (if more than one BLM inventory area is associated with the area, list each area and answer each question individually for each inventory area):

## **FORM 2**

### **Current Conditions: Presence or Absence of Wilderness Characteristics**

a. Area Number/Name: **Twin Ridges WY-030-26N89W11-2012** Acreage 5,657.79

(1) Is the area of sufficient size?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Describe the boundaries of the area (roads, property lines, etc.). If the area meets one of the exceptions to the size criterion, check "Yes" and describe the exception. If more than one inventory area is involved, list the acres in each and evaluate each area/sub-area separately. In completing steps (1) – (5), use additional space as necessary.

The unit is bound on the west by U.S. Hwy 287. The unit is bound on the north by private and state land. The unit is bound on the east by a maintained Class 4, 4wd Road.

DESCRIPTION OF CURRENT CONDITIONS: The Twin Ridges area under consideration is 5,657.79 acres of BLM public land. The unit contains the following townships:

TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTIONS	TOWNSHIP	RANGE	SECTIONS
t26n	r88w	20	t26n	r89w	16
t26n	r88w	19	t26n	r89w	9
t26n	r89w	24	t26n	r88w	7
t26n	r89w	23	t26n	r89w	12
t26n	r88w	17	t26n	r89w	11
t26n	r88w	18	t26n	r89w	10
t26n	r89w	13	t26n	r89w	3
t26n	r89w	14	t26n	r89w	1
t26n	r89w	15	t26n	r89w	2

The topography consists, primarily, of rolling prairie, buttes, hills, and drainages created by Battle Spring Draw and Stratton Draw. Elevation ranges from 6,950 feet on the buttes above the drainages to, approximately, 6,580 feet at the bottom of the drainages. The dominant vegetation cover is Mountain Big Sagebrush on the slopes and uplands of the unit and wet meadow cover along creeks and draws. The primary land use is livestock grazing. The primary, dispersed recreational activity in the area is hunting.

(2) Does the area appear to be natural?

Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A ☐

Description: The 36.88 miles of primitive routes (i.e., unimproved roads and two-track trails) detract from the unit's naturalness. Examples of these primitive routes are demonstrated in photos 3, and 7-8. When hiking across the Twin Ridges Unit, the casual observer cannot escape the constant view of primitive routes. These primitive routes create noticeable linear intrusions and disturbances that interrupt the experience of any wilderness character briefly encountered in areas untrammelled by the works of man.

The area contains three oil and gas wells throughout the Twin Ridges Unit (see example in Photo 9). When examining the status of the oil and gas wells, all three of these wells were permanently abandoned between 1924 and 1946. These wells have been fully reclaimed and were not found to detract from the naturalness or to be substantially noticeable to the casual observer.

The Twin Ridges Unit also contains one man-made reservoir (see examples in Photos 4-5). When the casual observer encounters this man-made borrow pit and impounded reservoir, the linear and textual contrast on the landscape attracts the attention of the observer to these modifications constructed with mechanized equipment.

The casual observer is often attracted to bodies of water while hiking. Water adds interest and diversity to the landscape. When arriving at the reservoir, the casual observer would notice that it is not a natural lake and that they have encountered an impounded, muddy borrow pit. The hiker seeking refreshment from clean water, would quickly notice that this "reservoir" is designed for cattle operations where the water is unfit for human consumption or swimming. The range improvements, including the reservoir and 7.15 miles of fence, were constructed, primarily, for commercial grazing operations. These improvements give the casual observer a perception that they are visitors to a cattle range rather than a wilderness untrammelled by the works of man. While the presence of cattle is compatible with a natural landscape for wilderness inventory purposes, the noticeable presence of grazing-related developments in this unit is not.

In sum, the cumulative impacts on naturalness including the numerous primitive routes, and permanent range improvements have impaired the naturalness in the Twin Ridges Unit to a level that is incompatible with the definitions of wilderness provided in Section 2(c) of the Wilderness Act of 1964 (incorporated in FLPMA 1976):

**A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.**

(3) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for solitude?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(4) Does the area or the remainder of the area (if a portion has been excluded due to unnaturalness and the remainder is of sufficient size) have outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

(5) Does the area have supplemental values (ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational scenic or historical value)?

Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A ☒

Description:

## Summary of Analysis

**Area Name and/or Number:** Twin Ridges WY-030-26N89W11-2012

### Summary

Results of analysis:

1. Does the area meet any of the size requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No
2. Does the area appear to be natural? ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ N/A
3. Does the area offer outstanding opportunities of solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A
4. Does the area have supplemental values? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☒ N/A

Check one:

\_\_\_\_\_ The area, or a portion of the area, has wilderness characteristics and is identified as Land with Wilderness Characteristics (LWC).

\_\_X\_\_ The area does not have wilderness characteristics.

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Team members:

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_